

REMARKS

In the Office Action: claims 4-7, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph as lacking enablement; and claims 3-7, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as indefinite.

In response to the Office Action, claims 4-7, 13 and 14 have been amended without prejudice. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the application as filed, for example in the original claims and as set forth in previous amendments. No new matter is added.

The Rejections Under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph

Claims 4-7, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph as lacking enablement on various grounds. These are addressed in turn below.

Phosphorous heterocyclic compounds. Claims 4-7 and 13-14 were said to lack enablement for phosphorous heterocyclic compounds when X, Y, Z = P. This rejection is traversed. None of the claims define X, Y or Z to be phosphorous. Withdrawal of this grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

Bridge compounds where m, n and o are all zero. The claims were also rejected on the grounds that applicants have not disclosed any specific pi bridge compounds where m, n and o were all zero. The claims have been amended to recite the additional limitation that $m + n + o \geq 1$. This limitation is supported throughout the application and claims as filed, including without limitation by the examples of compounds containing bridging groups provided. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Da and Db as oxygen and sulfur. The claims were rejected on the grounds that when Da or Db are O or S, they would have a valency of three. The relevant claims have been amended to allow for one of Ra and Rb to be not present when Da is O, S or not present, and to allow for one of Rc and Rd to be not present when Da is O, S or not present. This amendment is supported

throughout the application and claims as filed, including without limitation by the exemplary compounds provided where Da and/or Db are O, S or not present.

The claims have been amended to additionally allow for Da and Db to be not present. This limitation is supported at p.5 line 20.

Withdrawal of this grounds of rejection is respectfully requested

The Rejections Under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph

Claims 3-7 and 13-14 were rejected as indefinite on various grounds. These rejections are addressed below. However, none of the grounds stated in support of the indefiniteness rejection applies to claim 3. Claim 3 is believed to be allowable, as no grounds of rejection have been provided for it.

Valency. The claims were rejected as indefinite as setting forth structures that do not meet conventionally accepted valency requirements, specifically where X, Y and Z are P and where Da or Db are O or S. The claims do not define X, Y and Z as being P, and therefore this ground of rejection is traversed. The definitions of Da and Db have been amended and do not allow for Da and Db to exceed accepted valency requirements. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Existence of the bridge. The claims were rejected as unclear regarding existence of the bridge when m, n and o are each zero. As set forth above, the claims have been amended to recite $m + n + o \geq 1$. As the claims require at least one of m, n and o to be present, the claims are definite regarding the existence of the bridge. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

X, Y and Z definition in Claim 5. A correction was requested in the definition of X, Y and Z in claim 5. The claim has been amended to recite that X, Y and Z can be " $CR_k=CR_l$ ", where the last subscript is the letter "l" (pronounced "el"). This appears to be what was previously submitted in Applicants' copies of the submitted amendment. In any case, Applicants do not intend that the subscript for that R group be a "close bracket" symbol. Withdrawal of this grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

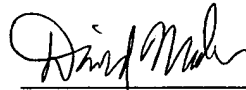
Definition of the asterisks in Claims 13 and 14. Claims 13 and 14 were said to be indefinite as lacking definition for the asterisks. Applicants have amended the claims to reflect that the asterisks indicate the point of attachment of a given structure to the atom to which it is to be attached. Withdrawal of this grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims in the application are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned if it is believed this would expedite prosecution.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 02-4553 as necessary for this Response and for the payment of new claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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